

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRENCH-AMERICAN CULTURAL TALKS

1. HAVING READ CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT,
WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW SITUATION AS WE
SEE IT.

2. IN JANUARY 75, DURING CALL BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
RICHARDSON ON LALOY, LATTER INDICATED DESIRE FOR WIDENING
INTER-CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND FRANCE. COMING
ONLY SIX MONTHS AFTER INAUGURATION OF GISCARD REGIME,
LALOY REMARKS SEEMED TO PORTEND A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE
DIRECTION OF FRENCH CULTURAL POLICY. HE ADMITTED THAT
FRENCH HAD PREVIOUSLY PLACED NEARLY ALL RESOURCES INTO
PROPAGATION OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, AND THAT THIS
EMPHASIS NEEDED TO GIVE WAY TO EFFORT AT ESTABLISHING
IMPROVED INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS. HE FELT STRESS ON
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY EX-
CHANGES IN OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS POLITICS, LABOR, MEDIA,
ETC. THIS CONVERSATION INDICATED TO US FRENCH WILLINGNESS

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TO MOVE IN DIRECTIONS WE HAD FOR SOME TIME SOUGHT.

3. WITH DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND FRG IN THIS FIELD IN OUR MINDS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT AS FIRST STEP WE COULD SEEK MEETING (ALONG THE US-GERMAN PATTERN), POSSIBLY ONLY FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS, AT WHICH, WITH LITTLE STRUCTURE AND AGENDA, WE COULD EXCHANGE VIEWS, SHARING RESPECTIVE CURRENT CONCEPTS OF INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS.

4. IN PAST MESSAGES YOU EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE, IF NOT ESSENTIAL, TO BROADEN EVEN THE INITIAL DIALOGUE BY INCLUDING GUY AND SOISSON. WE ACCEPT THIS ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SPECIAL INTERESTS OF GUY (CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS) AND SOISSON (ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY ON UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY BASIS) MIGHT PLACE THE EMPHASIS ON SPECIALIZED FIELD TOO EARLY. THE INITIAL NEED IS TO ASSURE A BROAD LOOK AT INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. OUR VIEW WAS GIVEN TO ANDERSON BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON IN MAY AND REPEATED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN IN JULY. STRAUS ALSO TOLD ANDERSON THAT RICHARDSON WAS PREPARED TO MEET HIS FRENCH COUNTERPART(S) AT ANY CONVENIENT TIME, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR PARIS. LOWENSTEIN FELT WASHINGTON WOULD BE MORE DESIRABLE, PARTICULARLY IF GROUP WAS TO INCLUDE GUY, SOISSON, AND LALOY, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE TWO FORMER WITH OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONTACTS OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON IN THEIR FIELDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. BOTH EUR AND CU URGED THAT REGARDLESS OF SITE, MEETING BE ARRANGED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF APPARENT FRENCH OPENING.

6. THE BROAD SCOPE OF THE TALKS WE ENVISAGE WOULD NOT REQUIRE GUY'S PARTICIPATION. WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT LOCALE. EITHER WASHINGTON OR PARIS IS ACCEPTABLE SINCE BOTH GUY AND SOISSON WILL, WE HOPE, HAVE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET PRIVATE AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. WE MIGHT NOTE PARANTHETICALLY THAT MUSEUM EXCHANGES AND POSSIBLE EXCHANGES OF EXHIBITS BETWEEN NEH AND GUY'S MINISTRY ARE PROCEEDING WITHOUT PROBLEMS, AS ARE, OF COURSE, VARIOUS ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

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7. SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD SEEK TO SET-UP INFORMAL, UNRESTRICTED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOCUSING ON LALOY (AS RICHARDSON'S OPPOSITE). IF SOISSON AND GUY, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, CAN JOIN IN TALKS THEY WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME. BUT TIMING OR SITE OF TALKS SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY AVAILABILITY OF EITHER STATE SECRETARY.

8. TANEN IS CARRYING COPY OF AGENDA OF LAST US-GERMAN TALKS TO INDICATE THEIR BROAD RANGE AS WELL AS "COM-MUNIQUE" ISSUED AFTER US-GERMAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR TO INDICATE WIDE SUBJECT AREA IN WHICH UNDERSTANDING MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE ACHIEVED. THESE ARE FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, DESIGNED TO AMPLIFY OUR VIEWS AS STATED ABOVE.

9. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. PLEASE SHOW THIS MESSAGE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN DURING HIS COMING VISIT TO PARIS. KISSINGER

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